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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, June 11, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended June 6 totaled an estimated 16.3 billion ton-miles, 9.8 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The decline was primarily attributable to the impact of the United Mine Workers' strike.

Cumulative volume for the first 23 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 396.5 billion ton-miles, 2.4 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended June 6 totaled 390,816 cars, 13.4 percent below 1980, but 8.0 percent higher than the preceding holiday week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 23.9 percent in the East, 11.7 percent in the South, and 6.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 13 of the 21 commodity groups were down, with coal loadings off 54,831 cars, or 45.2 percent. Nineteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended May 30 totaled 29,861 cars, up 9.6 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 53,213 trailers and/or containers, up 8.5 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 22 weeks of the year was 705,291 cars, 2.3 percent lower than last year, and 1,280,076 trailers and/or containers, down 2.3 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 6/6/81:

	Loadings in Week ended June 6, 1981	Change from Corresponding Week 1980		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars	Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	22,324	D 3,937	15.0	I 2,471	12.5
Other farm products	4,650	D 194	4.0	I 85	1.9
Metallic ores	34,004	D 4,089	10.7	D 4,851	12.5
Coal	66,401	D 54,831	45.2	I 4,318	7.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,145	D 1,839	11.5	I 1,448	11.4
Nonmetallic minerals	14,852	I 736	5.2	I 1,983	15.4
Grain mill products	15,334	D 1,378	8.2	I 2,779	22.1
Food and kindred products	16,211	D 1,568	8.8	I 1,769	12.3
Primary forest products	19,150	D 1,920	9.1	I 2,259	13.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,636	D 244	2.7	I 897	11.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,376	D 852	4.0	I 677	3.4
Chemicals and allied products	25,773	I 604	2.4	I 1,701	7.1
Petroleum products	5,171	D 510	9.0	I 529	11.4
Stone, clay and glass products	14,607	D 896	5.8	I 1,336	10.1
Coke	7,034	I 2,335	49.7	D 44	0.6
Metals and products	17,100	I 2,404	16.4	I 861	5.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,654	I 4,106	24.8	I 3,340	19.3
Waste and scrap materials	12,877	I 1,399	12.2	I 1,166	10.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,179	D 164	1.6	I 1,857	22.3
All other carloads	41,096	I 259	0.6	I 4,265	11.6
LCL traffic	242	I 69	39.9	I 70	40.7
Total Cars Loaded	390,816	D 60,510	13.4	I 28,916	8.0
Corresponding week of 1980	451,326				

	1981	1980	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (23 weeks)	9,468,374	10,134,713	D 6.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
22 Weeks cumulative	380.2	388.1	D 2.0
Week ended June 6	16.3	18.1	D 9.8
23 Weeks cumulative	396.5	406.2	D 2.4

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